



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
3280 RUSSELL ROAD
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5103

MCO 1300.64
MP
9 Mar 99

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1300.64 W/CH 1

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: COMMAND SCREENING PROGRAM

1. Purpose. To publish policy and eligibility criteria for command screening and tour lengths for commanding officer billets.

2. Cancellation. MCO 1300.32.

3. Background

a. The Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) directed a centralized process by which officers are evaluated and screened for command. The CMC established the Command Screening Program to ensure our Marines receive the best possible leadership and every officer receives fair and equitable consideration for the opportunity to command.

b. There are many billets of great responsibility and authority which deserve special consideration for assignment, but which are not classified as command. However, only commanding officers exercise the promotion, retention, and disciplinary authority reposed by the CMC. This does not diminish the importance of other critical billets. Rather, it reaffirms the critical nature of the unique responsibilities inherent in command.

4. Eligibility Criteria for Colonel Command Screening

a. Unless restricted by the exclusions below, all colonels and officers selected for colonel will be screened for command.

b. Precluded from consideration:

(1) Officers with established separation dates.

(2) Officers with mandatory retirement dates falling within 2 years of the beginning date of the slate period being considered by the Command Screening Board in session.

(3) Officers who have previously held command in one of the designated colonel command billets for a period of not less than 12

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

9 Mar 99

months, are currently holding one of those billets, or are slated for command as a result of a previous Colonel Command Screening Board.

(4) Officers who have requested, in writing, to be excluded from consideration.

5. Eligibility Criteria for Lieutenant Colonel Command Screening

a. Unless restricted by the exclusions below, all lieutenant colonels and officers selected for lieutenant colonel will be screened for command.

b. Precluded from consideration:

(1) Officers with established separation dates.

(2) Officers with mandatory retirement dates falling within 2 years of the beginning date of the slate period being considered by the Command Screening Board in session.

(3) Officers in the above or promotion zone to colonel.

(4) Officers who have previously held command in one of the designated lieutenant colonel command billets for a period of not less than 12 months, are currently holding one of those billets, or are slated for command as a result of a previous Lieutenant Colonel Command Screening Board.

(5) Officers who have requested, in writing, to be excluded from consideration.

6. Slating Restrictions. The number of officers screened for command will exceed the actual number of billets available to allow flexibility in cases where a screened officer may not be available for assignment to command because of statutory tour lengths or other priority assignment restrictions. Examples of tour length or assignment restrictions are as follows:

a. Officers serving in joint duty assignments must complete a minimum of 22 months in those billets before reassignment. Officers serving in joint critical billets will normally complete a full 36 month tour in that billet before reassignment.

b. Officers serving in critical acquisition billets will normally complete a minimum of 36 months before reassignment.

9 Mar 99

Officers in program manager billets will normally complete a minimum of 48 months before reassignment.

c. Officers serving standard 24 or 36 month tours will normally complete a minimum of 22 months before reassignment.

d. Officers serving in Special Education Program payback tours will normally serve a minimum of 36 months before reassignment.

7. Commanding Officer Tour Lengths

a. The length of command tours has a direct bearing on the number of vacancies which occur every year. Longer command tours create fewer vacancies; however, continuity and consistency of command are paramount for stability in our units. The complex international issues facing our nation, and the diverse missions that the Marine Corps can expect to receive, present unparalleled leadership challenges for commanders. These challenges underscore the need for stability for officers in command.

b. The following command tour lengths are established:

(1) Continental United States (CONUS) Operating Forces Commands: 18-24 months for Regular component Fleet Marine Force tours; 24 months for command within or in support of the Reserve component.

(2) Overseas Operating Forces commands: 18-24 months in command during a 36 month tour.

(3) CONUS Based Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) commanders will normally command for two MEU deployments. The 31st MEU commander will normally command for 24 months during a 36 month tour.

(4) Supporting Establishment Commands are 24 months with the following exceptions which are 36 months: Marine Corps Districts; Marine Corps Air Stations; The Basic School; Officer Candidates School; Defense Logistics Agency; and the Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity.

(5) Marine Aviation Weapons Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1) and Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1): 12 months as executive officer; 24 months as commanding officer. Normally, the MAWTS-1 and HMX-1 executive officer is slated from the command screening list to fleet up as the commanding officer.

9 Mar 99

8. Command Screening Procedures

a. The Colonel Command Screening Board consists of nine general officers. The Lieutenant Colonel Command Screening Board consists of 3 general officers and 11 colonels.

b. The Command Screening Board will determine those officers who are best and fully qualified for command to meet commanding officer requirements in the operating forces and the supporting establishment.

c. The CMC (MM) will furnish the Command Screening Board with information regarding particular skill needs. The information provided to the Board will identify the number of commanding officer billets by MOS or special skill requirement.

d. The Command Screening Board will select a sufficient number of officers to fulfill a minimum of 200 percent of command requirements, with a goal of 250 percent.

e. The Command Screening Board will recommend those officers who are best and fully qualified for either the operating forces or the supporting establishment. Within these two categories, the board will further divide the selected officers into top, middle, and bottom thirds in descending order of merit.

f. Using the recommendations of the Command Screening Board as basic guidance, monitors will develop a command slate for CMC's approval. Officers slated to command must accept or decline their command assignment, in writing, to CMC (MMOA-3). Declinations should be forwarded through appropriate chain of command with general officer endorsement where applicable.

9. Action

a. The CMC (MM), in coordination with CMC (MP), will annually validate currency of command billets through a Marine Administrative (MARADMIN) message published during March of each year. This information will allow the Command Screening Boards to select an appropriate number of officers for command slating.

b. Final billet validation will be provided to CMC (MM) prior to convening of each screening board. As board sponsor, CMC (MM) announces the convening of the subject boards via MARADMIN, coordinates board membership, assists the designated board president in the conduct of the board, and publishes the board results via MARADMIN.

9 Mar 99

c. Only the CMC will approve command assignments which deviate from the policy outlined in this Order. Requests for exceptions to policy must be addressed to the CMC (M&RA).

10. Reserve Applicability. This Order is not applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.



J. W. KLIMP
Deputy Chief of Staff for
Manpower and Reserve Affairs

DISTRIBUTION: PCN 10200953400

Copy to: 7000110 (55)
7000093/8145001 (2)
7000099, 114/8145005 (1)

<<----->>

Date signed: 04/03/2002 MARADMIN Number: 185/02 R 030824Z APR 02 ZYW

FM CMC WASHINGTON DC//MP//

TO MARADMIN

BT

UNCLAS //N01300//

MARADMIN 185/02

MSGID/GENADMIN/CMC WASHINGTON DC/MPO-40//

SUBJ/MCO 1300.64 CH 1. COMMAND SCREENING PROGRAM//

POC/A. HACKBARTH/MAJ/-/-/TEL:DSN 278-9387/TEL:COMM (703) 784-9387//

RMKS/1. PURPOSE. TO DIRECT A PEN CHANGE TO THE BASIC ORDER.

2. ACTION. IN PAR (7)(B)(4), DELETE

"MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASES" AND "MARINE CORPS MULTI-COMMODITY
MAINTENANCE CENTERS."

3. FILING INSTRUCTIONS. FILE THIS CHANGE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE SIGNATURE PAGE OF THE BASIC ORDER.//

BT